

60,130-710 (99MRA0206)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Kalageros et al.

EXAMINER: Carpenter, S.

SERIAL NO.: 09/592,751

GROUP ART UNIT: 3612

FILED: June 13, 2000

FOR: CRUMPLE ZONE FOR BODY PANELS

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 60,130-709 (99MRA0211)

Assistant Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE

In response to the office action of March 25, 2002, Applicant hereby indicates that claims 20, 22-25 and 32 read on the elected species A, Figures 1-2. Applicant apologizes for skipping claim 21 in the numbering process for new claims submitted in Applicant's previous response. When the claims are renumbered, claims 20-24 and 31 read on the elected species.

Also, the Examiner argues that new claim 31 has been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention because claim 31 is directed toward a process of making a panel. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assertion that claim 31 is a distinct invention. Claim 31 is simply the process for making the panel described in claim 21 and is not a process that can be used to make a materially different product or that the product can be made by a materially different process. This method claim simply covers a method for making a specific embodiment of the panel disclosed in Figure 2 and claimed in claim 21, which is dependent from claim 20. No new matter has been added and no additional searching would be required.

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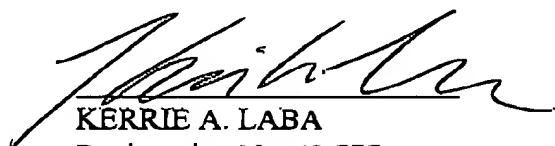
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Finally, Applicant respectfully requests an explanation for the rejections of claims 4 and 6. Claims 4 and 6 are designated as rejected, however, no prior art has been applied against claims 4 and 6.

Thus, Applicant believes that all claims are allowable over the prior art, and an early indication of such is earnestly solicited. Applicant believes that no additional fees are required, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

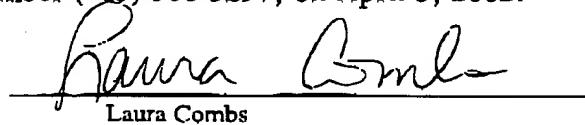


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Dated: April 5, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, fax number (703) 308-3297, on April 5, 2002.


Laura Combs